

## REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were presented for examination. The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11-20, and 22-25; and objected to claims 10 and 21. Applicants are hereby canceling claims 1-9, 11, 13-20, and 22-25; and amending claims 10, 12, and 21. Support for all amendments is found in the application as originally filed. Reconsideration of this application as amended, and allowance of all claims remaining herein, claims 10, 12, and 21 as amended, are hereby respectfully requested.

In his third paragraph, the Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting certain steps, specifically set forth by the Examiner, that the Examiner believes to be essential.

Applicants are hereby amending claim 12 to adopt the Examiner's suggestion, and to include in claim 12 these steps.

For the above reasons, the Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 12; and to allow this claim as amended.

In his fifth paragraph, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 12-20, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard.

Applicants are hereby canceling claims 1-5, 13-20, and 22-25; and amending claim 12 as described above.

Applicants believe that claim 12 as amended is patentably distinct over Howard. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 1-5, 12-20, and 22-25; and to allow claim 12 as amended.

In his sixth paragraph, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 12-14, 16, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishiguro.

Applicants are hereby canceling claims 1-5, 13, 14, 16, 24, and 25; and amending claim 12 as described above.

Applicants believe that claim 12 is patentably distinct over Ishiguro. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 1-5, 12-14, 16, 24, and 25; and to allow claim 12 as amended.

In his eighth paragraph, the Examiner rejected claims 6-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishiguro in view of Benaloh.

Applicants are hereby canceling claims 6-8 and 11.

In his ninth paragraph, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishiguro in view of Benaloh in further view of Fish.

Applicants are hereby canceling claim 9.

In his tenth paragraph, when read in combination with numbered paragraph 7 of the Examiner's Office Action Summary, the Examiner objected to claims 10 and 21, but indicated that these claims "would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims".

Claims 10 and 21 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, this part of the Examiner's objection is inapposite.

Applicants are hereby rewriting claims 10 and 21 into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw his objection to claims 10 and 21; and to allow these claims as amended.

In his twelfth paragraph, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-25 on the grounds on nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of copending U.S. patent application 2004/0136537.

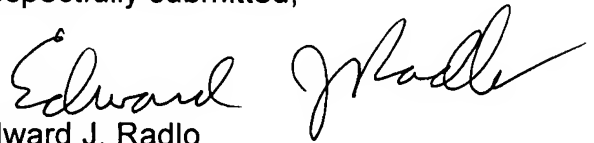
Application no. 2004/0136537 and the instant application are commonly owned. Applicants are hereby submitting a terminal disclaimer.

For the above reasons, the Examiner is requested to withdraw his provisional rejection of claims 1-25 under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting; and to allow claims 10, 12, and 21.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance of all claims remaining herein, claims 10, 12, and 21 as amended, and therefore an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner disagrees or believes that, for any other reason, direct contact with Applicants' attorney would help advance the prosecution of this case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

date of signature: May 14, 2007

  
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enclosures

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